Mr. Richard Gallen
7W81 St, 4C
New York, N.Y.

1/31/76

Dear Dick,

I should have been in bed some timeago but I'm wide awake and too euphoric to be able to sleep. So while I finish a drink and try to unwind I'll tell you why.

I think I've broken through all the distresses of lousy medical care and the worries it engenders and gotten down to writing. I think also I'm adjusted enough to typing when it is uncomfortable. And good or bad, I've been doing it.

By now Dr. Segal's advice to not sit for more than a half hour without walking around a little is almost automatic. It does sometimes disturb concentration but I do it.

It is almost midnight. With several breaks for changing the way I sit during which I had supper and packed today's orders, beginning about 3 I wrote more than 6,000 words, the last part of the first chapter.

(In my effort to lose weight, until supper, aside from coffee and a few glasses of wine I had only an arange all day. Plus the unknown vitamins my wife feeds me.)

I have found a college student who is a typist, has a car, and can spend most of Tuesday's helping me

It is midnight and I'm not tired. What a wonderful feeling now!

Tomorrow I hope to go over the parts I wrote early mornings, before the mail came and before the ending week turned into a bad one for me. I'll have to figure out a way to read and correct without my legs pendant, but with patience I think I'll do it. Then I'll do the filling in.

As I once told you, there is so much in my mind my ideas often don't solidify until I start to write. This is happening.

This is going to be a strongly anti-FBI book only in the sense of a documented expose

I think that like the first Whitewash, the chapters will be more or less free standing, sort of units to themselves while not disconnected.

If I can get it read and corrected rather than what may later be necessary, rewritten, I think I'll get this girl to setype it Tuesday. If I do I'll make a carbon if you want to read it. If she doesn't finish it this Tuesday and can't find spare time before then she can complete it next Tuesday. Assuming I can go tomorrow or Monday as I have today.

Tuesday there are oral arguments before the 6th circuit. Wednesday I have a medical appointment in Washington and one with Jobst to get the supports Dr. Segal recommended. Thursday there is the delayed calendar call in the case in which I am seeking more of the FBI's suppressed King evidence than I have. It will take some time and preparation.

The reporter who has taken my guidance and followed my suggestions and leads has let me know that he is doing two stories and they will appear soon. This will be the second chapter, rewritten but probably largely quotes. It is my work he followed up on and we have this agreement. I hope it makes the sensation that is possible. The first chapter concludes by leading into this. He has kept in touch. When he did what I suggested in Memphis during the two days that ended when we went to New York together what he had was superb. He has added to it - duplicated official confirmation included. I'll not take the edge off more. But for two days, even if he went onlt to those I suggested, he developed quite a bit.

The worries got lost in the writing. I hope they don't show through it. Best,

As I suspected, I was too wide awake last night to sleep immediately. However, I got enough rest. I don't remember when I last sleptan hour past daybreak. Before I fell asleep pretty much of the structure fell in place. If you want me to I'll give you a short version of it but I think with material like this it will add little to you knowledge. It will be more or less chapter headings. They may give some indication. Fullness might be deceptive. There is so much more material than can possibly be used I'll not really be able to decide what to omit until I get to the writing.

One of the problems has been extensive overlapping. I think I've pretty well worked that out in my mind. The same thing was true with Whitewash, as I indicated last night. And regardless of the form my later writing took, when other considerations became more important to me, it was runner-up for the mystery writers award in 1966. In the underground format.

Given the kind of life I lead, with the new intrusion of a serious medical problem not cared for adequately, I'm going to have to break this down into units I can keep in mind for short bursts. This way I can even write chapters out of order, as I did with Whitewash. If I can get more help I'll be able to work faster, especially if I can find someone who can take shorthand. Ot transcribe tapes I dictate.

There will be further interruptions I did not mention during and after this week. I am a consultant to Playboy on a crappy series of stories I can make a little less bad, a little more accurate and get a little pay for it. But there is no telling when they'll call. One day there were about six. Another couple the phone consultations lasted several hours each. (I listen to Dr. Segal. I ask them to wait a minute and I walk around periodically.) I see a local doctor, a GP, on the 9th, and I'm going to ask him to refer me to the best internist locally, in his opinion, on the phlebitis. If I have not heard from Dr. Segal by then,if there is such a thing, a local vascular man. Then in 14 days we are in the court of appeals on my C.A.75-226, the one that will again be precedent under the amended FOIA. It is going to take come preparation because we are going to have to make a frontal assault on the FBI and the U.S.Attorney and the DJ Civil Division, laying and proving serious charges against all. There is no choice.

So, while I do not pretend I am past concern over this illness - far from it - I have come to the point where I can say "fuck it" and plunge ahead, able to sublimate the worries and the anxieties they seed.

Maybe you can call this a kind of progress report. I hope so.

Sincerely,

If I hear nothing from you on the question I've raised about facsimiles I'll run into the text those I can and leave the rest for an appendix. I hope that by doing this space economies will be one result, drama and impact another. I know you must be very busy with so long from the office when you were ill. Hope the rest are all past it.